

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 215604

61

ORIGIN OES-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 ACDA-07 AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DLOS-06 DODE-00

DOT-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

NSF-01 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SAL-01 FEA-01 /121 R

DRAFTED BY OES/OFA /FA:BSHALLMAN:EEB

APPROVED BY OES/OFA /FA:LMNAKATSU:OES/OFA:RLRIDGWAY

ARA/MEX-MR. FALK

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P 311607Z AUG 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 215604

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EFIS, PLOS, MX

SUBJECT:US/MEXICO FISHERIES AGREEMENT

REF: MEXICO 10705

1. DECISION HAS NOT YET BEEN MADE WITHIN USG REGARDING WHETHER OR NOT TO PROCEED TOWARD SIGNATURE OF US/MEXICO FISHERIES AGREEMENT. STRONG OPPOSITION FROM SOME CONGRESSIONAL INTERESTS MAY PRESENT SERIOUS OBSTACLE TO MOVING FORWARD. OUR BEST ESTIMATE AT THIS TIME IS THAT DECISION WILL NOT BE MADE FOR FEW DAYS, POSSIBLY NOT UNTIL EARLY NEXT WEEK.

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PAGE 02 STATE 215604

2. DEPT. PLEASED THAT CASTANEDA DEEMED US DRAFT

NOTE ON EXPLORATORY FISHING TO BE SATISFACTORY, BUT IS SOMEWHAT CONCERNED OVER HIS INDICATION THAT GOM REPLY WOULD BE TO QUOTE STUDY WHAT TO DO UNQUOTE. US AND MEXICAN DELEGATIONS AT NEW YORK MEETING AGREED THAT GOM REPLY SHOULD TAKE NOTE OF UNDERSTANDINGS EXPRESSED IN U.S. NOTE AND CONFIRM THAT THESE ARE ALSO UNDERSTANDINGS OF GOM. AT APPROPRIATE TIME EMBASSY MAY WISH TO REMIND CASTANEDA THAT WE ARE EXPECTING GOM DRAFT REPLY AND THAT WE ARE ANTICIPATING A RESPONSE ALONG LINES NOTED ABOVE.

3. QUESTION HAS ARISEN AMONG U.S. FISHERMEN ANTICIPATING LICENSE PURCHASE IF AGREEMENT IS SIGNED HOW BONDING SYSTEM SPECIFIED IN AGREEMENT WOULD WORK. AGREEMENT PROVIDES THAT FOR VESSELS APPLYING INDIVIDUALLY THERE WILL BE POSTED QUOTE A CASH DEPOSIT OF PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE OR A CASH PERFORMANCE BOND OF \$1,600.00 U.S. DOLLARS UNQUOTE. EMBASSY REQUESTED TO INQUIRE WITH APPROPRIATE GOM OFFICIALS HOW U.S. FISHERMEN WHO SO DESIRED MIGHT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS BONDING SYSTEM, SUCH AS WHERE AND HOW COULD APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENTS BE MADE AND WHAT WOULD COST BE FOR \$1,600 BOND, ETC.

4. DEPT. HOPES RESOLUTION OF LICENSE RENEWAL PROBLEM AS NOTED PARAGRAPH 4 REFTEL CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED SOON. DEPT. BELIEVES IT IMPORTANT THAT THIS ISSUE BE SETTLED FAVORABLY AND AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, SINCE THERE IS SOME OPPOSITION TO AGREEMENT AMONG U.S. CONSTITUENCY INVOLVED IN FISHERY INSIDE 12-MILES OF MEXICO. PART OF DRAFT AGREEMENT DEALING WITH THIS FISHERY REFERS SEVERAL TIMES TO IDEA THAT QUOTE PAST PRACTICES UNQUOTE WILL BE FOLLOWED WITH RESPECT TO OPERATIONS INSIDE 12-MILES. PAST PRACTICE IN THIS CASE WOULD CLEARLY PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR VESSELS TO RENEW LICENSES WHILE AT SEA.

5. FINALLY, IN DISCUSSIONS WITH MEDINA NERI AND CASTANEDA ON ABOVE QUESTIONS, EMBASSY ALSO REQUESTED TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF ADDING BOATS TO LIST OF 141 U.S. VESSELS AUTHORIZED TO FISH INSIDE 12-MILES OF MEXICO PRIOR TO SIGNATURE OF AGREEMENT. ONE VESSEL ON LIST OF CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 215604

141 HAS ALREADY SUNK, AND DEPT. BELIEVES THAT GOOD CASE CAN BE MADE FOR INCLUSION OF 2 OR 3 ADDITIONAL VESSELS WHICH ARE VERY OLD AND DO HAVE HISTORY OF LICENSE PURCHASE BUT ARE NOT ON LIST OF 141. DEPT. HAS ASKED AMBASSADOR TELLO IN NEW YORK TO EXPLORE THIS POSSIBILITY, AND HAS PROVIDED HIM WITH RELEVANT DATA REGARDING SEVERAL BOATS. TELLO INDICATED HE MUST CHECK WITH MEXICO CITY. ROBINSON

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